GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1526
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
FIRE IN MUMBAI HIGH GAS WELL
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire had broken out at the gas well in the Western Offshore in the month of March, 1999;

(b) if so, the estimated loss in production suffered due to the incident;

(c) whether any inquiry had been constituted to go into the causes of the fire; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)
(a) & (b): A fire incident had taken place at gas well of B-121 structure in Western Offshore on 12th March, 1999.Average gas production from 4 flowing wells from this platform prior to the incident was about 1.6 million metric standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD). The notional direct loss due to fire / uncontrolledflow of gas for 86 days, based on the gas production at the then prevalent gas prices of Rs. 1600 per thousand standard cubic meters per day, works out to about Rs. 22 crores. Besides above, there is indirect loss due to interest on deferred revenue as the production from alternative location of this structure is yet to be resumed.
(c) & (d): An Inquiry Committee headed by Shri N.N.Gogoi, former Chairman & Managing Director, Oil India Limited, was constitutec by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on 16.3.99 to go into the causes of the fire and it has since submitted its report.